

Director who shall be appointed by the President/Chairman of the Deemed University from a panel of 3 or 4 names suggested by a Committee.

(d) No case has come to light that the appointment has been made in contravention of the rules and regulations.

#### Visit of Senator Hank Brown

4863. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were held by Senator Hank Brown with the Union Government, on India-US relations, during his recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Senator Hank Brown met with Foreign Secretary during his recent visit to India.

(b) Discussions with Senator Brown were of a general nature covering a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.

[Translation]

#### Ranjeet Sagar Dam

4864. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned 'Much water will flow waste fully to Pak' appearing in 'The Hindu' dated August 2, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the construction work of Ranjeet Sagar on river Ravi is not expected to be completed within the targeted time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ravi water is not being fully utilised in Punjab and the same is flowing to the said foreign country; and

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to take some special measures for extending their support in the construction of the said dam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam on River Ravi has been delayed due to various reasons like land acquisition in J&K, availability of funds with Government of Punjab and damage to diversion tunnels due to high floods in the past. Availability of funds is a major constraint in the completion of the project even now.

(d) After completion of the Ranjit Sagar Dam project and Shahapur Kandi Project in Punjab, India will be in a position to utilise the average, annual flow of Eastern Rivers of Indus System i.e., the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej which comprise full share of India according to Indus Water Treaty 1960.

(e) Union Government is making all efforts at various levels so that the project is completed by targetted date.

[English]

#### N.H.-53

4865. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Jiribam-Imphal portion of National Highway-53 is single lane with low load carrying capacity of bridges;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to convert the highway into a double laned one;

(c) if so, the steps taken to start the construction work thereon to complete the work at the earliest; and

(d) other improvements proposed to be added on this National Highway during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The construction work is likely to commence in this year.

(d) Work on five bridges are in progress besides other works worth Rs. 108.00 lacs. The following works have also been planned during 1996-97 for development to NH lane specifications:

(i) Formation 14.84 Kms eqvt cl-9 specifications.

(ii) Surfacing 13.85 Kms eqvt cl-9 specifications.

(iii) Pmt Works Rs. 55.49 lacs.

#### Construction of Big Canal

4866. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct two big canals one originating from North East Part of the country and ending towards Southern part of the country and second originating from Northern part of the country and proceeding towards southern part of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost involved therein; and